

Aotearoa Youth Network



June 1995 Number 25

WHAT IS AOTEAROA YOUTH NETWORK?

The Aotearoa Youth Network is an organisation dedicated to building links between youth who are active in "progressive" politics. It is open to all and seeks to provide a place for discussion, learning and action across organisations, individuals and causes.

AYN was established at the 1993 Peace, Power and Politics Conference, where over 600 people (including over 150 young people) gathered. The main activity of AYN so far has been the production of a monthly newsletter, which presently goes to over 200 people, and reaches a far wider audience. AYN has established a positive presence in the progressive peoples' movement, and hopes to go beyond "networking" to assist in the formation of new organisations and groups.

We want to put anything in this magazine that you can write - news, articles, poetry, letters, anything. The more you write in, the more this magazine acts as a networking tool. We attempt to print anything you send without cutting but please note:

- We will not print anything that is overtly racist, sexist, homophobic or offensive to any marginalised group. If you want to debate issues that may offend people, try and be very clear about what you are trying to do, and why.

Deadline: end of June

Cover photo: Metro College Students on the march in Auckland (pages 7-9). Photo by David Fleming.

KENT STATE REMEMBERS

A solitary bell tolled for the dead and wounded Thursday, 25 years to the minute after a burst of bullets tore them and Kent State University into a wrenching symbol of rage against the Vietnam War. Thousands - many of who stood a night long vigil clutching candles - massed under overcast spring skies on the university commons to mark the moment.

"Kent State has been a symbol throughout the world," former Senator Howard Metzebarum, told them. "We gather again searching for healing and a hope that the hurt will pass us by".

Dean Kahler, 45, left paralysed by the shootings, spoke from his wheelchair. "I came here today to remember the 4 students who died here and also the 58,000 who died in Vietnam," Kahler said. "I feel these years have done a lot to heal the hurt."

Also present was Mary Ann Vecchio Gillium, who was a 14 year old runaway on May 4, 1970, when Ohio National Guardsmen were ordered on campus to keep order at a demonstration against the war in South East Asia.

Her grief stricken image was captured in a photograph as she knelt, arms outstretched, over the body of Jeffrey Miller, one of the four students killed in the gunfire. For 25 years, she told Thursday's assemblage, she had tried to hide from that photo. "You don't have to be dead to be in purgatory," she said. She is now married and a coffee shop waitress in Las Vegas.

"I think it's time to take the lanterns and pass them onto a new generation so we can never forget it", she said. To the photographer who took the picture, then a Kent State photojournalism student, she said "John Filo, I don't hate you, I love you."

Among those in the crowd was Vietnam veteran Bill Mehen of Akron, Ohio, who said his military service in the war began one week after the shootings.

"I came here to pay my respects and my regrets to those who were wounded and died," he told Reuters. "The emotions I feel right now are similar to when I visit the Wall (The Vietnam Veterans Memorial) in Washington."

At 12.24 pm local time Thursday the same bell that had summoned students to a demonstration 25 years ago tolled 15 times - for the four dead and 9 wounded Kent State students and for two students killed in a protest 10 days later at Jackson State University in Mississippi.

In addition to Miller, the others who died at Kent State were Allison Krause, Sandy Scheuer and Bill Schroeder. The blood spilled there helped galvanise an already uneasy US public opinion about Vietnam, and, many believe, was one of the events that turned public opinion against the conflict.

Eight guardsmen and 25 demonstrators eventually went on trial, but none went to prison - and nobody has been individually proven responsible for the shootings.

• Reuters, off the Net.

Here in New Zealand one hundred Otago students observed 13 seconds of silence for the four students killed at Kent State 25 years ago. Occupying the registry building at the time, at 12:24 on Thursday May 4th, Otago students were the first of thousands to remember Jeffrey Miller, Allison Krause, Sandy Schuer, and Bill Schroeder. "In the footsteps of history we march with them."

Childcare - the hidden barrier.

As part of the New Zealand University Students Association's focus on a campaign for a barrier free education system, we are undertaking a number of Focus Weeks. On May 22 to 26, we are having one on problems associated with childcare. Lack of support for parents who are students is presenting a barrier to participation in tertiary education. The financial costs and emotional stresses associated with being a student parent can cause students to drop out, not achieve to their ability, and places huge stress on children and families.

So why is it important?

Parents study better knowing kids are safely looked after.

Women particularly are discriminated against as they tend to lose confidence if they wait to retrain after their children have grown up (H. Ritchie, The Victoria University Creche - A study of its usage, 1986).

Having children looked after by neighbours / relatives is often unsatisfactory and unreliable,

Parents need support, both financial and emotional, to participate in tertiary education. Adequate childcare facilities, close at hand with reasonable costs are essential.

This is not a new argument. Throughout the 70's and 80's student parents fought hard for some recognition of the need for childcare support. The result was the arrival of creche facilities and some financial support for parents. These creches now provide an excellent service, but overcrowding and students unable to afford childcare are a testament to the fact that the problems still exist.

Students Associations and parents have continued lobbying for improved support and services. In 1995 at Otago, a Parents Room has been opened with financial assistance from both the Students Association and the University. This provides parents

with clean quiet facilities for changing, washing or just relaxing with children. It is a welcome facility that seems likely to be duplicated around the country.

Childcare on Campus:

Albany: Three years after the Massey Albany campus opened there is still no creche on campus. The Students Association is confident that they now have the support on Council to get it through, but in the words of the Welfare Officer, "it is only happening as a result of constant pressure from students." The cost of holiday programs has been a problem also. The University wants much higher fees to be charged for holiday programs, but the Students Association has held it at \$30 a child, as this is all anyone can afford.

Victoria: Last year the University released a draft report recommending banning children from campus. Although this was trumpeted as a safety move, it seemed to regard children as a problem. Implementation would not only be against the EEO policy, but also severely limit the prospects of many student parents.

And now the new Victoria Law School which will be located in a historic building a long way from campus is saying that there is no way a creche can be built there as it will conflict with the buildings historic nature. A survey of law students done last year confirms that this will limit the participation of some students. The Vic students association are lobbying on this issue as we speak.

Canterbury: Like almost all campuses Canterbury's creche is full. It is prized because it is located in the Student Union building, but it is full to overflowing, and parents are being turned away. All the funding for the creche comes from the Students Association. The University provides no childcare for students, only staff.

Otago: On the financial side of things

a student at Otago has found herself unable to continue studying because of allowance regulations that say that the maintenance payments she gets for her two children are personal income and she thus earns too much to be eligible for an allowance.

So who is responsible?

If the government has a real commitment to lifelong learning and retraining, then it needs to support students with children. Funding of institutions must take this into account.

For their part, Universities must recognise the need to have facilities available for childcare. Provisions need to be made in University Charters that commit them to providing adequate facilities and recognising that provision as a priority.

What is needed?

- Financial support that reflects the costs of raising children while studying, and understands the investment that this is making in the future of New Zealand.
- Low cost accessible childcare facilities provided by institutions for students.
- Convenient, accessible space for parents to wash, change, relax with children.
- An attitude that accepts children as part of the rich culture of universities and encourages students who are parents to be involved in university life.

What you can do:

Support moves by your students associations to provide services to students with children.

Write to the University and to the Minister of Education requesting more funding for childcare facilities and financial support for parents.

- NZUSA, Wellington

"Cuba Lives"

International Youth Festival

August 1-7, 1995

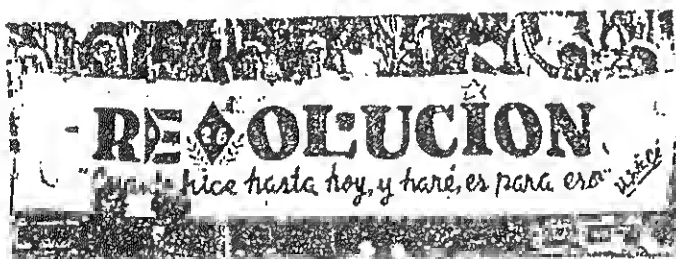
Youth organisations in Cuba are building an international youth festival to be held the first week of August in the city of Havana and Cuban provinces. The following invitation has been extended to young people from around the world to come to Cuba.

Youth of the World:

"We, Cuban youth and students, sharing with our people an infinite joy and a profound commitment to our history, our conquests and our dreams; Conscious of the immense human and political courage represented by the international solidarity with our country and the declaration of war against the blockade; Wishing to exchange views on current topics of interest to youth around the world, and to share with them the speakers podium, work, dancing, music, and a sincere smile; Call on youth and student organisations, friendship associations, regional and international organisations, those who while being a little more than youth continue to feel close to the youth of Cuba, those who regardless of ideology or creed are opposed to the blockade against Cuba and cherish the right of peoples to self-determination, sovereignty and independence, to participate in the 'Cuba Lives' International Youth Festival, to be held August 1-7, 1995 in the city of Havana and other Cuban provinces."

This call issued by:

**Union of Young Communists of Cuba
Federation of University Students
Federation of High School Students
Jose Marti Organisation of Pioneers**



The Union of Young Communists is inviting the largest possible number of young people to the festival. It will be very broad and open to all who want to join - regardless of ideology, race, religion, or nationality. It will be a discussion among youth around the world about our common interests.

At the festival topics such as employment, social development, the environment, culture, national identity, and health care will be discussed.

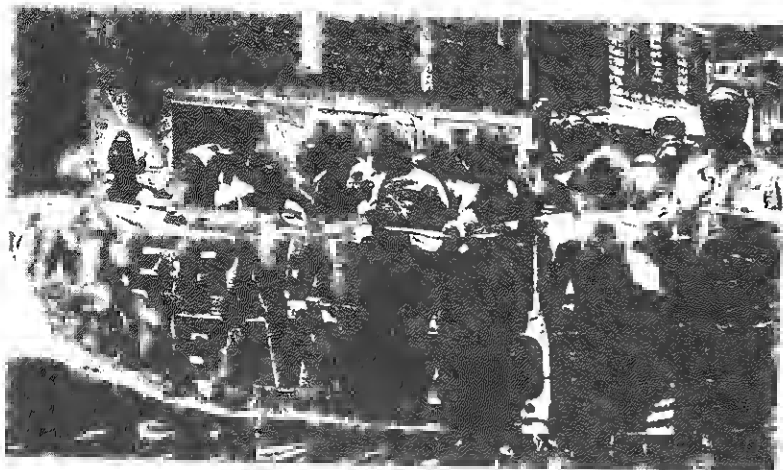
It will be an opportunity for those attending to share experiences with Cuban youth and get to know the reality of Cuba.

The conference will begin in Havana, and then people will deepen discussion by travelling to one of seven different provinces, depending on the topic. There they will meet youth in other cities and rural areas of Cuba. This will give visitors a broad feel for the nationwide effort by working people in Cuba to combat the repercussions of the world capitalist economic crisis and defend the gains of their revolution.

For more information contact: Union of Young Communists - International Relations Department, Avenida de las Misiones 5 y 7, Havana Cuba. Tel (537) 625-644 or 625-672. Or: Annalucia Vermunt, P.O. Box 3025, Auckland. Tel: (9) 379 3075.

Hear the authentic voice of Cuban youth

CUBA TODAY



Alejandro Herrera Agete will be visiting New Zealand from June 2 to June 16, 1995, to speak about the situation in Cuba today and in particular the role of young people in the revolution.

In 1959, the working people of Cuba rose up and overthrew the hated United States-backed Batista dictatorship. Their new revolutionary government mobilised the workers, peasants and youth to carry out land reform, organise a literacy campaign, take steps to eradicate racism and women's unequal status, slash rents, make health and education free for everyone, and take the economy out of the hands of the big-business elite. The revolution ended United States domination of Cuba's economy and political life and opened the road to building a society based on co-operation rather than exploitation.

Cuba faces severe economic difficulties today because of the collapse of trade with the former Soviet Union, the thirty-year United States economic embargo, and the economic crisis afflicting many third world countries. In the face of these difficulties, the majority of Cubans are organising to confront the problems they face, and

defend their revolution.

Alejandro is a member of the Provincial Bureau of the Union of Young Communists (UJC) in Havana. The UJC is a broad youth organisation with more than 600,000 members. It has called an international "Cuba Lives" festival for August 1-7. During his tour Alejandro will be urging organisations and individuals to visit Cuba to take part in this gathering.

Alejandro trained as a swimmer at a sports school in Havana City, and until 1989 was a member of Cuba's national swimming team, competing at home and overseas.

Alejandro went on to study computer engineering and graduated with a masters degree in 1990. He worked as a computer engineer in a steel mill where he became a leader of the Union of Young Communists. He has twice been a volunteer helping to harvest Cuba's sugar cane.

If you would like to help with the tour or need more information, please contact us. The entire cost of the tour, including international travel, will have to be met in Australia and New Zealand. If you are able to make a donation, send to: Cuba Friendship Society, P.O. Box 6716, Auckland. Phone Janet Roth (09) 524-4716.

Worldwide Anti - McDonalds Day.

On 15 April 1995 there were international protests to mark the 40th anniversary of the opening of the world's first McDonald's store, and to celebrate 10 years of coordinated resistance to McDonald's.

There were actions in at least 20 countries including New Zealand, Spain, Sweden, Ireland, Poland, Denmark, Australia, Czech Republic, Croatia, Netherlands, Germany, Finland, USA and the UK.

USA:

Helen Steel and Dave Morris, the defendants in the McDonald's libel trial, were flown over by their US supporters to join an anti-birthday event outside the first store opened in Des Plaines, Illinois. About 40 marched in a circle shouting slogans and carrying placards informing passers by of McDonald's exploitation of people, animals and the environment. McDonald's cancelled special plans to open the museum on that day, effectively abandoning any anniversary celebrations. Beforehand, protesters picketed a McDonald's in downtown Chicago and held a press conference at which Helen and David smashed a big birthday cake bedecked with 40 candles. "With this day of protests, people are passing judgement on 40 years of junk food, junk jobs, and the discarded mountains of just plain junk," David said. There were also demonstrations in (at least) Washington, Detroit and New York.

UK:

Over 100 stores were picketed and more than 120,000 leaflets handed out across the UK, and some people returned bags of McDonald's litter to the company as part of the Operation 'Send it back' campaign. At many stores, McDonald's workers were handed special leaflets expressing opposition to low pay and exploitation and offering solidarity and encour-

agement to organise for their rights.

Leicester Square, London:

35 protesters gathered outside McDonald's, handing out leaflets to members of the public. German, Italian and Spanish translations were also on hand for passers by from abroad. A mountain of bags full of McDonald's litter and a person dressed in the 'litter suit' made from discarded clamshells, fry cartons, drinks cups and burger wrappers were there to highlight the problems of waste, pollution and litter caused by the company's excessive packaging. A banner displayed for passers by read "40 years of McGarbage". Also, there was a person dressed as a McDonald's worker, who was chained to a large mock up burger, symbolising McDonald's exploitation of workers through poor pay and conditions. Many passers by stopped to discuss the issues and view the spectacle.

On 2 occasions during the picket, some protesters went inside the store to hand out leaflets to customers as they ate their burgers. A picnic was staged outside - bread and fruit was laid out on blankets for the protesters and anyone passing by to share for free and enjoy. The pieces of bread were shaped into letters which read: "Real Food".

As the climax to the protest, the demonstrators took the bags of litter into the store to return them to the company.

Swindon McDonald's:

About 80 people attending the Earth First! Gathering nearby descended on the main McDonald's in Swindon. They went into the store, handed out leaflets, and sang "Unhappy Birthday". After half an hour, the police arrived and asked everyone to leave, including customers. The protesters then staged a sit down outside. The manager of the store decided to

close it and it remained shut for the rest of the day, costing 5,000 pounds in revenue. Some demonstrators went to a drive through McDonald's, and drove round and round asking for veggie burgers each time they came to the intercom!

Oxford Street McDonald's:

The manager of this McDonald's had a shock just before the 40th anniversary when his 'restaurant' was included in the itinerary of the regular Critical Mass bike ride. Critical Mass is a fast growing world wide phenomenon in which cyclists gather to assert their right to ride without being killed, maimed and gassed by cars - by cycling together through the city at a leisurely pace for an hour or so. On this occasion, 200 cyclists decided to turn this store into a "Bike-through". Cries of "Go ahead and sue us" were heard as the ride left!

Finland:

In Tampere, there were pickets outside three stores at which bags of McGarbage were returned. There were about 250 people at demonstrations outside 6 stores in Helsinki. There was street theatre, anti McDonald's songs, flags, bags of McGarbage and 3,500 leaflets were handed out.

Germany:

Under a banner reading "Bloody Birthday, McDeath", activists demonstrated for 10 hours in front of the Dieburg McDonald's. The manager tried to bribe them into silence with offers of free Big Macs, salads and Cokes. 1,500 leaflets were handed out in Stuttgart, some promising free french fries and coke, causing chaos!

- US McLibel Support Campaign
PO Box 62 Craftsbury VT 05826-0062.

A week with the bankers

The end of April and the first week of May brought intense politics to the streets of Auckland. April 28 saw the annual *Reclaim the Night* march, an event organised by the Auckland University Women's Collective, but reaching far beyond the campus. From the weekend the focus was on the Asian Development Bank, meeting in the Aotea Centre, Town Hall, and various hotels and city council buildings.

The Monday's May Day march was notable for being initially opposed by the Council of Trade Unions, but was the biggest in Auckland for several years. 450 people marched up Queen Street, and rallied in Albert Park, access to upper Queen Street and Aotea Square having been blocked by police. The march emphasised contemporary struggles, as it was felt that May Day often seems tired and nostalgic. Speakers included Pakaitore spokesperson Niko Rangaroa, fire fighters head Mike MacEnnae, and Asian Students Association (ASA) secretary Jega Annambalam speaking about the Asian Development Bank. ADB issues featured prominently, with ADB songs before the march leading news coverage.

Tuesday 2 May saw the first of 5 planned AND actions. Around 70 people attempted to enter Aotea square, but were repelled by police. A megaphone was confiscated in the first minute of the protest. The group then marched to

the Carlton Hotel where Don Brash and Bill Birch were presenting a seminar entitled "New Zealand, the Turn-Around Economy", extolling the virtues of privatisation and restructuring. Police pushed protesters back off the footpath outside the hotel, then across the road and onto the facing footpath. They later underlaid their confrontational approach by preventing the march crossing Queen Street to return to its gathering point. One person was arrested at this stage; a bystander who was not demonstrating.

In another action that afternoon, 43 people occupied the tower of the Bledisloe Building, in which the Bank Governors were based. After being forcibly evicted by police, they moved onto the Square.

Music played an important part in both these actions.

After the Tuesday actions had achieved considerable media cover-

age, Wednesday brought the start of the police crack down. After 40 protesters were removed from outside the entrance to the Regent Hotel (where a seminar was taking place), four people were arrested, three from the Auckland Unemployed Workers Rights Centre (AUWRC) and one from Friends of the Earth. Police stated that they had identified these four after watching videos of the previous day, and the protesters felt that they were plucked out, as they were arrested while the group retreated onto the footpath. Much to the dismay of the police, who clearly believed that leadership was vested in one person, the protest continued to Aotea Square, where Bolger was speaking.

Wednesday afternoon was the time of the students' National Day of Action. Around 3,000 marchers joined with a smaller group of ADB demonstrators, and attempted to force entry into Aotea Square. A number of people were arrested,



The May Day march heads along Queen Street

some violently. Attention then turned to the nearby Inland Revenue Building, emphasising Student Debt Issues, but marchers were unable to enter the building. Therefore they continued to occupy Queen Street for some time. Police arrested ten people including Auckland University Students Association President Brendan Lane, and Jega from ASA.

The day also saw the announcement by Annette Sykes, Mike Smith and others, that the continued refusal to address Maori demands may lead to terrorism. Police are considering laying sedition charges for the first time since the Second World War.

Thursday's action saw around three hundred people test police strength at the Bledisloe Building and the Carlton Hotel. The march had begun with a series of speakers including Leonor Briones from the Philippines Freedom From Debt Coalition, and a student from East Timor. It ended with speeches from Non Governmental delegates to the conference, although police attempted to stop this happening. Delegates were initially prevented from leaving the square, and the fourth and final sound system was confiscated when it was passed to them.

Delegates were pushed around as they made their way through police lines, and then attempted to address the marchers. Police forced marchers first to one side of Queen Street, then back across to the other. Seventeen people were arrested at this stage, and twenty overall that day, including three camera-people, and six students from an Auckland school, Metropolitan College.

Police used gratuitous violence, much of which was featured on television news. ADB Action Coalition spokesperson Sue Bradford was repeatedly punched, and her head was smashed into a concrete pillar. She was vomiting for much of the evening, but was refused water. After several hours the police doctor referred her to hospital, where she was treated for concussion. AUWRC's Caroline Hatt was strangled, and by the time she was put in the police van, she was losing consciousness.

Around 40 students from Metro protested again the next day, marching against police repression and violence. They circled the square and approached the police several times, but avoided confrontation.

In all, thirty four people were arrested demonstrating against the Asian development Bank, one of them twice on consecutive days. Eight people, three from the Auckland Unemployed Workers Rights Centre, one from Friends of the Earth, a school student, a camera person and two university students are facing charges.

Many of the twenty arrests made on the subsequent but unrelated pub crawl were also believed to be linked to the ADB protests, as over half of these arrested were political activists. Many of them allege that they were picked out from the crowd as the police sought revenge for the events of the week.

A feature of the protest campaign was the strong links developed with participating Non Governmental Organisations (NGO's), and with the ASA. Some groups had people both within and outside the conference. NGO's addressed marchers, and AUSA's Matt Hodgetts was both a delegate and a march leader. (Police tried unsuccessfully to have his conference accreditation revoked.) Delegates expressed their support for the action, stating that they had strengthened the position of lobbyists, and have requested a recording of the protest songs for use in the Philippines, where the bank is based.



The front line of the ADB march, Thursday.

Participants felt that the actions had been a major success. Media coverage of the conference was dominated by the protests and by police reaction. There was very little coverage of the conference itself, or of the addresses by Bolger, Brash and Birch. Anticipated government grandstanding was rendered ineffective, as the public and news agenda was being set by the protests. Official publicity was reduced to a reactive position. It was believed that the government would use



bers, together with other groups, are now turning their attention towards November's Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting, again in Auckland.

For information on the ADB and its activities, and New Zealand's involvement, contact the ADB Action Coalition, PO Box 3813, Auckland 1. Organising these protests has been expensive, and major costs are still to be dealt with, including legal costs. AUWRC who have underwritten this, have very little

Police evict protesters from Bledisloe building, Tuesday.

conference to try to promote their policies both domestically and internationally, but the Images people saw were not of a buoyant economy but a discontented population.

Brothers and Sisters for Justice. They received considerable support from around the country, which was a major help both in terms of finances and morale. Many of the Coalition mem-

money, and would welcome any donations sent to the above address.

**David Fleming,
Auckland.**

by the end of the conference people, in particular Aucklanders, were well aware of the formerly obscure bank, and the view they had of it was not that the government would have wanted to have portrayed.

The ADB Action Coalition included people from around fifteen groups, among them AUWRC, Max Christie, Friends of the Earth, Cause, Karma Support, and Network of



Thursday afternoon, police just about to attack.

May 3 - Students on the streets again.

May 3 saw the first major actions for the year by University and Polytech Students around the country. The effects of imposing a 'generation of debt' on students were highlighted by marches, rallies and occupations. Students protested in Auckland, Hamilton, Palmerston North, Napier and Hastings, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin. In Australia, thousands of students were also protesting against fees, loans and attacks on education.

In Dunedin, about 2000 students rallied to hear speeches from Paul Williams, president of the NZ University Students Association, and Rebecca Martin, the local president. Contrary to Police expectations, they then marched quickly to the Registry building, cramming into every available space.

The Registry has been the scene of conflict between University administration and students before, most notably in September 1993, when Police violently attacked a peaceful protest, injuring many and arresting 13 in total. This time the police were not called, although a plain clothes officer joined in the occupation and allegedly encouraged people to burn files and break windows before being 'asked' to leave by students.

While demands were directed both at the Government and the University, attention turned to the relationship between students and the administration. Over the next 3 days of the occupation, a number of meetings were held between various members

of the University Council and the occupiers. This culminated in an 'informal forum' to discuss Students demands, problems in education, and any common ground. This saw agreement from the Council members to attend regular forums, and to work with students on funding and access issues.

The best aspect of the occupation, however, was not the 'winning' of any demands. More importantly, several hundred students participated in a process of direct democracy. People who had never protested before ended up organising lecture and student hostel speaking, produced posters, wrote press releases, came up with street theatre on the spot, and cooked, cleaned, studied and talked with each other. When conflict arose, we resolved it through discussion, and were able to implement our own 'justice' for those students who had broken our own ground rules. We took inspiration from the occupations of Pakaitore and elsewhere, and watched the police brutality in Auckland with both horror, and with memories of September '93. On May the 4th, we expressed our solidarity with students across the world by remembering the Kent State Murders 25

years ago with 13 seconds of silence, something that was both powerful and uniting.

We received extensive public support and media coverage, even making CNN in the States and the UK! The Association of University Staff, the Trade Union Federation, Auckland Unemployed Workers Rights Centre and the local CTU all sent messages of support, and staff members visited. The Internet and E-mail proved useful tools, with messages of support from student activists coming from all across the world. There is now a large group of people keen to get involved in the Education Campaign, and the prospects for activism generally look bright!

Joss Debreceeny, Dunedin



The Fun and Games of Registry!

On Wednesday May 3rd Otago University and Polytech students marched to the Otago University Registry and stayed there until Friday after a forum was held with most of the university Council members, students and some staff. Here are some of my thoughts on why things happened, what they were and what they achieved.

May the 3rd was the date for a university national day of action and was fixed in the minds of many Otago students. The Otago Education Action Group (EAG) had a couple of planning meetings talking about the aims of whatever our action was going to be. We decided that it was necessary to empower students by enabling everyone possible to be involved. Non violence was (and is) important, with about a dozen EAG members attending VOICE workshops on this, run by Allan Cumming. The EAG wanted to involve first year students, get more people involved in the EAG, and to have a better action than any other campus!

Our conclusion seemed to be to occupy until the council agreed both to talk and support s. Two sets of 'demands', he directed the government and the

other at the University Council, evolved as well as 'plans'. We plotted and planned and suddenly the day was upon us. Argh!!

Sleeping bags were placed in nearby flats and cars, 'innocent' students were wandering around Registry and observing the undercover police people gardening nearby, the place was humming! At 1pm we practiced chants with approximately 2000 students, then Paul Williams (president of the New Zealand University Students Association) and Rebecca Martin (president of the Otago University Students Association) both spoke before Paul said "lets go to Registry". What followed seemed like a huge slug slowly, but surely, sliming towards Registry about 200 metres away. I was at the back trying to coax people on, it all seemed like a B grade movie in slow motion (lucky example I know). Suddenly Shaun appeared and told me that everyone was getting in and that there were no police. I was in shock, everything was going according to plan! Plan "A" that

is!

People were inside and out, I was outside watching a tent be erected and trying to hype people up and make them stay. I think this was important as people were able to make their own decision, to go in or stay outside and still feel like part of the action (whilst drinking all the yummy veggy soup, and leaving me none!). I wandered inside, students were everywhere! Stumbling over many pairs legs I found myself in the council chambers, like most of the others I had never been anywhere near these rooms (it turned out that I slept the next two nights in these rooms!). we started a mock council meeting and then the 'real' Vice Chancellor (the guy that runs the place) arrived. He stood on top of the table and was very amiable, very smooth. The VC decided to go outside to announce to the world how much he agreed with us. We then had a meeting inside to decide whether to stay or go. The decision was to stay until a council meeting

was called that endorsed our 'demands' and agreed to do something about them. Throughout Joss Debrecey was on the cell phone to Auckland and the rest of the country, finding out what was happening. So we called on the sleeping bags, were given food (by the





Kindly Student Union), watched the news (booing the violent police in Auckland and cheering at the lack of the 'men in blue' in Dunedin) and then got down to work. Posters were made, such as:

Wanted 3000 flatmates
No bond
No rent
Free Coffee
Enquire Registry

Everyone was buzzing! An outside dance party was organised and then Paul Ubana Jones and Jay Turner came and played for us ... wow! Things were going good! The great thing was that heaps of people, making posters, dancing and humming along to Dylan classics, had never been to an EAG meeting in their University life!

On Thursday people busted themselves with lecture speaking and information stalls. Nothing had been organised prior to the occupation but this did not seem to matter as people just got down to it. I was impressed, all I could do was watch in amazement! In the evening we had an exceptionally long, tense, emotional, scary meeting that eventually (after 4 hours) resulted in a decision to negoti-

ate with the VC. A group of 3 were directed by the group as to where we stood. Before they met with him they planned what would be said and talked everything through. This approach worked really well as the negotiators could not be tricked by the smooth and somewhat intimidating (when he's in his office) Vice Chancellor. The outcome was that we tidied up the chambers and after the Forum had a meeting to decide whether to stay or leave.

On Friday Rebecca facilitated the Forum that was attended by most of the Councillors, about 150 students and a scattering of staff. After the Forum, we decided that we should leave due to its success. The council meeting wasn't till Tuesday, so if we had stayed on it would have been over capping weekend, and by leaving on Friday we looked united and could always go back on the Tuesday if the Council meeting did not go to plan. So at 4pm of Friday the 5th of May we marched out of Registry armed with sleeping bags and song, victorious (bring out the drums)!-

Since then we have had the Council meeting and many EAG meetings. I really feel that we met our initial aims of empowering students. This has

been great for us as we have had a fresh injection to the EAG. An example of this was our small protest about the lack of child care, almost all the work (making paper mache children's legs) was done by new members! Many friendships have been made and we're having fun!

It is interesting to note that both the Auckland and Dunedin protests were non violent, but people were only bashed up in Auckland, where the police were. Watching the news on the Wednesday night really brought this home to those in the Registry, that could have so easily happened in Dunedin, again.

I had never been involved in the planning of a protest before, nor had I been involved in an occupation. The planning is darn hard work, but just so important. Especially having hard and fast aims to stick to. Once inside decisions were made by the group which was important but very difficult. One of the biggest lessons I have learnt (and there were absolutely heaps) was that occupations can be the coolest, most stimulating and positive actions, but they are hard, hard work.

• Rachel Brooking, Dunedin.



International News

Romania

Several thousand Romanians, fed up with low wages, falling living standards and the slow pace of economic reform, demonstrated in the city of Brasov on Wednesday 17th May. Police stated that up to 15 000 people joined the peaceful rally.

This protest meeting is to draw the government's attention to employees' dissatisfaction with its broken promises, stated Gheorghe Ilie, head of the Infratirea trade union group. Infratirea claims 90 000 members around the country in machine building industries lying idle for a lack of orders or clogged with bureaucracy and indecision over privatisation.

Romania has struggled to push ahead with long-delayed mass privatisation laws and the reform of its cumbersome communist economy under guidelines from the IMF and World Bank. Living standards are lower now than in the last days of communism. (Reuters)

United Kingdom

London Greenpeace has found itself in trouble with the law for protesting. On May 17th Police raided the London headquarters of Greenpeace to seize information on a recent anti-weapons protest. Around 40 police officers ringed the building.

Greenpeace activists had used six tons of concrete to block a discharge pipe at the Aldermaston plant close to London, to protest against British weapons production, over Easter.

The police seized documents and computer files, and then returned the next day to arrest four activists. They were released without charge on a police bail, and told to attend a police station near the plant next month. Two more Greenpeace members were out of London at the time, and

police are still seeking to interview them.

About a dozen Greenpeace activists are currently occupying a disused oil rig off Scotland in an attempt to stop it being dumped at sea. Its owners Shell plan to go to court on Thursday to evict the group. The activists boarded the Brent Spar platform on the 2nd of May, saying that the installation is packed with sludge. At last report (when they were on TV) they had chained themselves to prevent their removal. (Reuters)

East Timor

A Timorese youth was tortured to death on May 14 by Intel agents at the Becora prison in Dili, sources from the resistance told Lusa.

Filomeno dos Santos, 26 years old, died in prison after being tortured for several hours by three Intel agents, indicated the same sources. According to these sources, family members of the victim were afterwards interrogated and subject to house searches, and were threatened they would be killed if they divulged the circumstances under which the youth's death occurred.

Filomeno dos Santos was detained together with 13 other students two days after the peaceful demonstration of January 9 at the University of East Timor in Dili, for allegedly having organised the demonstration. (Peacenet)

An Australian nurse who recently spent three months working in East Timor, both saw and personally faced Indonesian repression. The nurse, Simon de Faux, told journalists of treating victims of torture, rape and bashing by Indonesian soldiers in East Timor.

He said that he was watched around the clock by Indonesian soldiers, and

was bashed by a soldier with a rifle butt when he tried to stop troops beating an eight-year-old boy. An officer threatened to shoot him after he took photographs of a village marketplace with a soldier in the background.

He described women who had been repeatedly raped, men tortured by being tied naked to a metal bed and having electric charges sent through their bodies, youths almost drowned in barrels of water, and many bashing victims.

"It was a war being fought on Australia's doorstep, but no-one knew about it and I quickly found out the Australian government didn't care" he said. "The people of East Timor have been completely sold out by the Australian government."

Indonesia

Indonesian journalists are again facing crackdowns from the state. Journalists have been arrested, threatened, and blackmailed, and premises (the "KDP") have been raided. This is less than a year since the banning of three weekly magazines which the Indonesian regime had considered troublesome, the "Tempo", "Editor", and "DeTIK".

These alternative magazines are published without government licence, and are much sought after by readers hungry for news not found in other publications. These alternative sources, which are much more credible than the mainstream press, are being increasingly quoted by the international media.

The warrant which was used in the raid referred to Article 154 of the Indonesia Criminal Code, which states that "to insult the Government" is a crime punishable by up to seven years imprisonment.

The state has been assisted by the "PWI", the official "trade union" in this crackdown. The PWI expelled 13 journalists who signed a declaration which led to the creation of the Alliance of Independent Journalists in August last year. Outside of the union these 13 cannot work for any authorised publications, and with all the alternative papers closed by the state, they are unable to work. Another 50 journalists in other cities who signed the declaration are currently fearful of similar repression.

Students, including Asian Student Association members, and others have again been protesting against this media repression, throughout March and April. These attacks upon the freedom of information, and upon unions, leads to serious questions about Indonesia, especially as it looks to be promoted to a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. (Peacenet and ASA)

McLibel

A McDonalds advert has been criticised after 60 people complained. The advert depicted a child's successful attempt to reconcile his parents by arranging them to meet at McDonalds. The Independent Television Commission stated that the advert was offensive, exploitative, and liable to give a false hope to children from broken families.

Since the McLibel writs were filed 5 years ago, over one million anti-McDonalds factsheets have been handed out to the public. On the eve of the trial McDonalds issued three hundred thousand counter sheets, calling their critics liars. A libel claim was filed against McDonalds as a result. A judge ruled that given that McDonalds spent 1.3 billion dollars on advertising every year, the handing out of factsheets would help to even up the balance. "(McLibel, <dbriars@world.std.com>)

Korea

Hundreds of anti-American demonstrators marched towards a US office

in Seoul, and riot police responded by firing tear gas. Students were protesting at violence by US servicemen stationed in Korea, against South Koreans. There are still 37 000 US servicemen stationed in Korea.

Police officers claimed that the students threw stones and wielded steel pipes. The protesters were demanding revision of the Status of Forces Agreement, which governs US soldiers. They believe the agreement puts the soldiers beyond the reach of South Korean law.

China

Leading Chinese dissident Wang Dan has gone on a hunger strike to protest against his detention in the run-up to this year's sixth anniversary of the June 4 crackdown on student demonstrators. Wang was jailed for four years for his role as a leader of the 1989 student-led, pro-democracy demonstrations, in Tiananmen Square.

Wang was one of 45 people, including the cream of China's academic community, who signed a daring appeal sent last week to Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin demanding the release of all those still in prison for their part in the Tiananmen Square demonstrations.

Wang's letter announcing his hunger strike stated "I will go on hunger strike for an indefinite period from the day of my imprisonment. I am willing to exchange my life for the Chinese government promising to carry out democracy and reforms."

In preparation for the annual event, police have detained Wang and five other dissidents, and five others are "missing". Two wives of radicals have been tailed and harassed by police.

India

Tens of thousands of demonstrators were detained around Madras on May 4th during a strike to press for the resignation of the chief minister of the Indian state of Tamil Nadu, Jayalalitha, who is facing corruption

charges. Although the government gave no figure for the numbers of the detained, but the opposition party organising the strike claimed that 100 000 had been detained.

Columns of police had been marching through the city for the two days leading up to the event, and establishing pickets to show their opposition to the strike. The corruption charges relate to a purchase of land from a state corporation at a lower-than-market-price and irregularities in a coal-import deal.

Sri Lanka

On April 19, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) announced their decision to withdraw from the 3 month old ceasefire with the Sri Lankan government as "it was apparent that the objective of the government was not to bring about normality and durable peace in the country" due to its "evasive and temporising" attitude towards issues that it was considered as vital in addressing the need of the people in the North. This was in reference to the lifting of embargo on essential items and fishing that were banned after the LTTE had taken control of the Northern area for the past 4 years. While a list of items were agreed including fuel, during the four rounds of talks. "there were deliberate attempts to slow down the process of implementation". As for fishing, concession were made, but a major portion of the sea remained out of bounds for fisher folks.

On announcement of the break down, LTTE sunk two navy ships and attacked army outpost in different regions. And the government responded by arresting over 1000 Tamils in Colombo and reports of indiscriminate bombing in Jaffna (major Northern town) are beginning to filter out of the war zone.

Source: ASA Movement News.

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Dear All,

A 'newsy' type note / editorial this time (I can't think of anything else!). With luck, those who got this in the mail should have got two AYN's instead of one. This is because of delays at the printers and the need to save money - 2 AYN's, one stamp! Sorry for no. 24 being late. 24 and 25 are the first that we have had printed as well. This should see improvements in the 'quality' of AYN over time, as we get used to 'new' technologies.

There is a lot happening at the moment, but not a huge amount of reports coming in. Please continue to send us articles, news, anything - it's your contributions that keeps AYN useful and interesting for you.

Money is still a problem, so if you can afford anything, please send that too! We will be discussing possible changes to AYN at the National Peace Workshops. If you have any ideas / comments - write, write, write!
Keep the fires burning. Joss.

Heart Politics Winter Gathering 1995 June 29 - July 2. Tauhara Centre, Taupo.

Speakers include:

Bob Harvey, Mayor of Waitakere City, Jane Kelsey on the globalisation of economics and politics, David Williams on the Fiscal envelope, Juliet Batten on the politics of Pakeha earth based spirituality, Terese O'Connell on the Politics of tolerance, Dale Hunter on keys to growing self generating activist cultures, Marijke Batenburg on preventing burnout, Laurence Boomert on the ecology of commerce.

Costs:

Full accommodation in shared rooms \$255 - \$295.
Camping / Marae style \$225 - \$275.
Children \$80.

There is a 'bursary fund' for those who cannot afford the full cost - please send an explanation of why you cannot pay the full amount.

Please register early. Write to Heart Politics, PO Box 60236, Titirangi, Auckland. Phone Helen or David at 09-846 0361 or Rex at 09-817 9067.

Subscriptions:

\$9 Unwaged / Student

\$18 Waged

\$25 Organisation

\$50 Institution

This subscription is for a whole year (12 issues). If you cannot afford this, write to us and we will send you AYN anyway. We appreciate any and all articles, news, art, criticism and gossip!

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